

**WILLMAR PARK & REC BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
1:30, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2019
CIVIC CENTER ARENA**



Members:

Jim Anderson
Rand Middleton
Val Swanson

Thomas Gilbertson
Andy Ogdahl

Abdirahim Hussein
Rachel Skretvedt

City Council Members:

Rick Fagerlie

Julie Asmus

Staff:

Rob Baumgarn
Ryan Scheffler

Eric Banks
Becky Sorenson

Britta Diem

Guests:

Randy Hall

AGENDA

1. Approval of the Minutes
2. Public Forum
3. Pickleball – Randy Hall
4. Robbins Island Bridge – City Ordinance – Golf Carts
5. 4 Season Shelter Update
6. War Hawks Lease – Advertising Agreement
7. Parks & Recreation Bylaws and Term Limits
8. Coordinator's Reports
9. Other

PLEASE RSVP BY CALLING 235-1454 OR EMAILING bsorenson@willmarmn.gov

**Parks & Recreation
2707 Arena Drive NE
320-235-145**

Ryan Scheffler

August 16, 2019

Summer is wrapped up and now we are gearing for a busy fall. We have added a few new programs which include Youth Flag Football and Sports Sampler. Our 5th and 6th grade Tackle Football also starts up in the next week. The past month has been extremely busy with setting these programs up and making sure we are really pushing registration and program planning. We also have one more Movies in the Park in September which will be the last one for the year at Robbins Island.

ADULT COORDINATOR/FACILITY UPDATE

Hello everyone. Construction out at the Civic Center is moving right along with all the improvements in the Cardinal Arena. Painting has begun along with the handicap elevator. Refrigeration system is in and the concrete is poured. We just had the Willmar Municipal Utilities open house on Thursday August 15th, with around 800 Willmarites attending. We have one more dry land event which is the Quilters Show September 27th, 28th and 29th before the Hockey, Curling and Figure Skating season begins. We did have summer ice this year and from the sounds of it, it was a success and hope to build on that for next year.

Summer softball season wrapped up this week with playoffs which included Men's, Co-Rec and Church. The leagues were very competitive and balanced. Fall softball is gearing up in a couple of weeks and looks very promising. The Recreation Department also hosted the Minnesota State Class E Softball Tournament last weekend. I think it was twenty years or more since Willmar hosted one. Despite the rain it went very well.

The Adaptive programs were a huge success. Tuesday nights were softball and Wednesday nights backyard games. If anyone wants to see pictures, give me a holler.

Winter activities are right around the corner with Basketball, Volleyball, Hockey and more adaptive programming.

Overall I think the summer went great with very little problems. A lot of positive talk among the residents of Willmar. They said they can't wait to see what is going to happen next.

Activities and shows coming in the near future: The Willmar City Auditorium will host Patriots Day September 10th. This event is being organized by Glen Negan and Steve Ahman. We will have Men's Adult Flag Football, which will be new this year. Also, there will be another All Star Wrestling event November 16th at the Willmar City Auditorium. The one last year was attended by about 500 people. We also have a Circus coming in April of 2020.

I just want to say Thank You! To the City Staff, City Council and the citizens of Willmar, for all of the support and encouragement for the Recreation Department. If anybody has any questions, feel free to call me anytime.

Eric Banks

Willmar Adult Coordinator/Facility

ebanks@willmarmn.gov

C – (320)-295-8924

Coordinator Report

July 19:

Busy putting final touches on August event calendar for Community Center and getting fall programming completed. Theme of the week was focused on Health and Well-being! This week our Aging Wisely program brought in guest speaker Deb VanBuren from Carris Health. She spoke about adult health and some signs and symptoms to not ignore for aging healthy. The LSS Diabetes class has just two sessions remaining and has been such a good resource for the community. Lastly, hosted two Ucare information courses this week! On Tuesday we held our monthly Blood Pressure checks this week. Regular programs were held with Noontime meal, bone builders, cards, music, dancing, quilting, and singing!

Pool has been steadily busy with the humid and hot temperatures! Guards have been maintaining good work ethic in handling both the heat and high attendance. We held the 'Stingers Splash' last Friday afternoon, where we had games (tug of war, cannon ball contest, 500 football game, 'homer hitting derby'), the players were great sports, engaging with patrons and really was a fun afternoon! We have determined our hours will be adjusting on Monday, August 12 to 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm, with our last day being open for the season being August 22.

BikeWillmar program is still seeing steady usage. I have been trying out our battery/lock charging cube this week. This will be a great tool to keep all bikes up to full power, as it is easy to use, transport, and efficient.

July 26:

Been a good week of planning for the finishing touches of August events. Regular events took place at the WCC. We hosted the monthly TRIAD meetings for the Kandiyohi County police department, bargain meal, and hosting the Willmar Stingers [for lunch today](#)! We are currently in the works of putting together a kick off event to the Fair season, with 'A Day at the Fair!' This is set for [August 6th](#), we will have corn on the cob, corn dogs, games, prizes, and even some animals! Then [Aug 7-10](#), the Community Center will be a hub for free rides to and from the Kandiyohi County Fair! Park at the WCC and hop on a bus to the Fair! This will run [from 10 am to 11pm](#) during the Fair!

The pool had to close due to chemical imbalance on Wednesday. We held our last Lucky Duck Thursday of the month. We saw great response to people bringing in food shelf donations for a discount on their admission. I haven't yet received the total of pounds we donated this month but should know by next week! [Wednesday morning](#) we had the county health inspector visit and assess how we are operating. We passed and he offered a few general tips to improve on (always room for improvement!), but all was in very good status. With the month of August right around the corner, we have planned a few fun promo days to keep attendance up as people returning to school activities, taking last minute trips, and weather changes. Some include 'National Ice Cream Sandwich Day' [on August 2](#), sandwiches sold for \$1.00!, Stuff the bus fundraiser - bring

in new school supplies and get in to the DOAC for \$1.00; 'Bike to the DOAC Day!' - ride your bike and get in for \$1.00! And we also have one more day set with the Kandiyohi County Drug Free Coalition, where they will be sponsoring and covering all admission costs that day!

BikeWillmar group met with the WC Tribune on Wednesday to discuss the bike share and inform how the program works and is going! Also, Koloni has informed me that they are doing some software/ app updates that should be released within the next couple weeks! With this update, local businesses will be able to have ads/pins within the app, hopefully offering a discount or special offer for BikeWillmar riders! I am anxious to learn more about this feature, as I can see this being a great avenue to increase use of the program and to get the community aware of the bike share! We are also beginning to piece together pamphlets to distribute explaining the program! I am excited to see this program grow as we enter the fall season!

August 2:

Continual preparation for a kick off event to the Fair season, with 'A Day at the Fair!' This is set for August 6th, we will have corn on the cob, corn dogs, games, prizes, and even some animals! Then Aug 7-10, the Community Center will be a hub for free rides to and from the Kandiyohi County Fair! Park at the WCC and hop on a bus to the Fair! This will run from 10 am-11 pm during the Fair!

Regular programs took place this week, highlight events include Aging Wisely, and REM Network held a mentor training.

The DOAC stayed steady this week, unfortunately still had one afternoon where we had to close due to an AFR. I am going to be looking into different policies, rules, offerings to put in place for next season to make this event not so re-occurring. After talking with multiple area pools, it does happen to them all, and obviously we want to do the best we can to prevent and make right for patrons involved. Meaning: do we offer a day pass, 1/2 off their next visit, require all toddlers under a certain age to wear swim diapers? These are options I am going to continue to look into and better prepare for, for next season! Today, we will be celebrating National Ice Cream Sandwich Day! Selling a variety of ice cream sandwiches (Neapolitan, mud fudge, vanilla).

BikeWillmar is seeing good numbers this week, as it has been great biking weather! Seeing more bikes being rode to different hub locations this week! It has been great to see this program develop and come more to the public eye as more learn of it!

August 9:

The Community Center hosted a couple nice events this week! Monday we had a speaker from the MN Department of Commerce present on the topic of Senior Fraud. This touched on how to recognize it, prevent it and how to get help. Tuesday, we hosted 'A Fair Day!' Our version of a mini taste of Fair fun! Games, prizes, contests, and festive food was enjoyed! The Community

Center is a 'hub' for park and ride to the fair through Saturday! Been fun to see people utilizing this great service by Willmar Bus!

The pool is on its last full week of normal operating hours. Starting Monday, August 12 we will be adjusting to 1:00-6:00 pm, with our closing date being August 24th. This week we put on a 'Bike to the DOAC Day'. Patrons that rode their bike to the pool got in for \$1.00! We have a few more fun events left this summer; Stuff the bus, Drug free coalition day, hot dog deal day! Lots of summer weather left hopefully!

BikeWillmar is up 20 new users in one week! That's the biggest jump in users we have seen since the start of program! Hoping to continue to see this grow! The launch team met this week to discuss some promotion items to get the program known and proper information on how to use. A brochure pamphlet is in the works to distribute to businesses, hotels, and local attractions. We are also hoping to put together 'The Buzz' episode with Sarah Swedburg before the end of the biking season. Continually responding to users as the program is not perfect! Koloni is working on another update to come out next week!

August 16

The Community Center hosted regular programs this week, which included really nice attendance in the bargain lunch on Wednesday, Bone Builders, and Aging Wisely. This week we also hosted two UCare courses and one Welcome to Medicare. I'm currently piecing together a survey to gather information as to what type of events the community would like to see more of, whether that may be games, entertainment, education, health care, or nutrition.

The DOAC is operating on shortened hours through the remainder of the season (August 24). Those hours are 1:00-6:00 pm. We held the City pool party on Tuesday, it wasn't the 'prettiest' of pool days, but a decent turn out none the less! Also, on Tuesday we did a 'Stuff the Bus' event. Patrons who brought in unopened school supplies got in for \$1.00. On Monday, the Kandiyohi County Drug Free Coalition is sponsoring and covering all admission costs. We also are planning on holding a couple bargain concessions days in the next week!

BikeWillmar operations had a smooth week for the most part. A representative from Koloni is going to visit on Monday to check in with our program.

Today the Park and Rec Department bids farewell to their summer intern, Allie Payne! She has been such great help and support for me this summer! She will be heading back to Iowa State to complete her senior year in Sports and Recreation Management.